

# TORRANCE HERALD

ESTABLISHED 1914 — TWO SECTIONS — 12 PAGES  
TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 1940

26th YEAR — No. 32

SECTION A

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## Torrance May Become Another Gary!

### Yes, It May Happen Here Soon, According to Information from the White House

Possibility of Torrance becoming a giant steel center comparable to Pittsburgh and Gary were revealed recently by Stephen T. Early, secretary to President Roosevelt. While in Los Angeles last weekend, Early disclosed that plans to duplicate the great Eastern plants on the West Coast were now being discussed by the National Defense Commission. It is President Roosevelt's desire to see this basic industry more firmly entrenched on the Pacific Coast and the President favors the Los Angeles area, Early stated.

If such a gigantic industrial development is undertaken, it is logical that it will be located at Torrance. First, the largest steel producing unit in Southern California—Columbia Steel Company—is already located here, and it would be the natural thing to add to these facilities. Columbia Steel owns some 170 acres here and is at present using only about 40 acres, leaving ample room for expansion.

Second, but perhaps of even greater importance to Torrance, is the fact that Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., who is one of the most influential members of the National Defense Committee recently resigned his position as chairman of the board of United States Steel Corporation to accept appointment by President Roosevelt on the National Defense Commission.

Because of the splendid record of the Torrance plant among all U. S. Steel subsidiaries, it is only natural that Stettinius would recommend further development here.

In many important phases, including production efficiency, economy of operations and peaceful, satisfactory labor relations, Torrance has an enviable record throughout the steel industry. It is because of these factors, in no small measure, that the Columbia Steel mills here have been operating at full capacity for the past year, and are now employing more men than at any time in the history of the local plant.

In fact, current orders are being received in excess of the ability of the Torrance plant to produce; and even though the great defense program is deferred, it is known that increased demands for normal market needs will require expansion of the local mills.

There is little possibility of shifting orders to other units, as the American Iron & Steel Institute reported this week from New York that steel mills throughout the nation will boost operating schedules to 90.5 percent of capacity, as contrasted to 60.1 percent a year ago. It may only be a matter of a few weeks before every steel mill in the country will be running at full capacity.

## City Vote Registration Breaks 5,000 First Time

Showing a considerable gain, the city of Torrance has a total of 5,005 persons eligible to vote at the forthcoming state primary election on August 27, as compared with only 4,887 at the last state primary, in August, 1938, it was revealed today.

The trend in this community was similar to that in the rest of the county, which today boasts the highest number of registered voters in the county's history, a grand total of 1,607,080.

Strength of the various political parties in this community is divided as follows for the coming election, with the figures for the previous state primary in parenthesis following in each instance:

Democrats 3,400 (3,155); Republicans 1,319 (1,290); Socialists 8 (10); Prohibitionists 7 (12); Progressives 23 (7); Communists none (1); Commonwealth none (2); Townsend 28 (44); Decline to state 180, (166); grand total for the city 5,005 (4,887).

For the entire county, the breakdown of the strength of the two major parties was given as follows by Registrar of Voters W. M. Kerr: Democrats 974,532 (888,398); Republicans 539,053 (487,352); and the decline-to-state group, 78,387 (63,250).

### LOMITA TOTAL IS DOWN 277 THIS YEAR

Voter registration in Lomita for the coming primary election totals 3,203, a decrease of 277 from the registration for the Nov. 7, 1939, special election. While Republican party registration dropped from 1,049 to 779, those listing Democratic party affiliation increased 35—from 2,288 to 2,253.

Those listing affiliation with

## Difference Between Voters, Non-Voters Believed Equitable

Are there only 4,855 minors, non-citizens and residents who failed to get on the voters' lists here?

According to a comparison of the Federal population figure for 1940—9,860—and the number of persons eligible to vote August 27—5,005—that is true.

A number of other Southern California cities have discovered that the relative difference between the 1940 census count and their voter total is even narrower, leading to some caustic comments in the press of those communities.

The 4,855 difference here is believed equitable.

Other parties in Lomita are: Socialist 6, Prohibition 6, Progressive 2, Townsend 3, and declined to state 119.

### KEYSTONE VOTE TOTAL INCREASES 59

There are 1,019 voters registered in Keystone for the Aug. 27 primary, an increase of 59 over the registration figures for last November. Totaling 767, Democratic registration increased 69, and Republicans gained 59 over the 213 listing preference for that party in 1939.

## MAKES FIRST SWEATER FOR RED CROSS



—Torrance Herald Photo  
CAROLINE MITCHELL took her just a week

Displayed among the rolled bandages, cotton swabs, hospital garments and other items of Red Cross manufacture at the benefit luncheon card party held last week at the Dr. W. I. Laughon patio garden by Mrs. Phyrne Laughon, was an exceptionally well-knit sweater.

It was the first knitted garment given to the Red Cross by a local knitter since the sewing and knitting unit began operations about two weeks ago at the McDonald hall on Carson street. It was the product of Caroline Mitchell, 13-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Mitchell of 1685 Gramercy avenue.

Caroline, who will enter the ninth grade at Torrance high school next month, had busily clicked her needles for "about a week" to complete her gift to the Red Cross. She is planning to start another "very, very soon because it's lots of fun to knit."

For other news and photos of a patio party benefiting Red Cross at the Laughon home turn to Page 3-A.

## YOUNG MEN FORM JR. C. OF C. HERE

Organization of a Junior Chamber of Commerce for Torrance young men between 21 and 35 was begun here Tuesday night with the election of John Elder as president; Jack Buffalo, secretary; Sidney Donaldson, secretary; Ted Jenkins, treasurer, and Alfred Winkler, sergeant-at-arms.

The Torrance group plans to affiliate as soon as possible with the United States Junior Chamber which now is composed of more than 180,000 young men throughout the nation. The national organization was formed at St. Louis, Mo., some 20 years ago by five young men and today it is said to be the strongest association of young business and professional men in the country.

According to President Elder, the Junior Chamber has a two-fold purpose:

Meet Again Aug. 15

"We propose to inculcate a spirit of civic consciousness in the young business and professional men of Torrance and to provide a training ground to enable them to engage in civic affairs. Thus our young men will

(Continued on Page 4-A)

## Jury Acquits Boyd of Felony Drunk-Drive

A jury acquitted Monte E. Boyd, 51-year-old San Pedro longshoreman, of a felony charge of drunk driving in Superior Judge Ambrose's court last Friday. Boyd was arrested following a smash-up on the night of April 7 on Highway 101 in Welteria when five cars were damaged and three persons badly injured. He has been at liberty since his preliminary hearing here April 15 on \$1,000 bail.

## Regional Planners Rapped for Divvy of Highway Funds

"The time has come to make Los Angeles county understand that the southwest part of the county is going to have its fair share of highway funds or they will find us throwing monkey wrenches into the machinery all of the time," declared Oscar L. Willett of Palos Verdes Estates, president of the Southwest District Highways Association, in a letter to this newspaper Monday.

Willett sharply criticized the recommendation of the Regional Planning Commission which failed to include mention of either Century boulevard or Imperial highway in the 10 "urgent" or 14 "secondary" improvements to use the \$5,655,000 available for the 1941-43 biennial program of the state division of highways.

"This last report of the Regional Planning Commission indicates the necessity of representation for the southwest district on the commission. At the present time this area has no such representation," Willett points out.

### Must Start Fight

"As a result, out of a total of \$5,655,000 that the Commission, thru the Board of Supervisors, proposes to recommend to be spent on state highways in Los Angeles county during the next two years, only \$250,000 is recommended for the entire area south of Santa Monica avenue and west of the Los Angeles River.

"Of this amount, a part (\$135,000) is proposed to be spent on Hawthorne avenue without anything being done at the bottle-necks at each end. The balance is proposed to be spent on Artesia street from Central avenue to Alameda street.

"This isn't even a decent sized crumb for the southwest area but it will be all that we will get unless we start fighting and keep fighting until after the appropriations are made by the next Legislature," Willett continues.

"The Southwest District Highways Association is going to fight this report of the Regional Planning Commission vigorously. If necessary we are going to carry the fight into the next Legislature."

"Please understand that this applies only to the state highways in this county. If the county authorities are disposed to ask that more than 95 percent of the money spent on state highways be spent outside of this area, then we can expect approximately the same distribution of county money.

"We ask for cooperation, not only to compel a more equitable distribution of highway funds but also to give this area equal representation on the Regional Planning Commission," Willett concludes.

## District Sons of Legion to Install Here Friday

New officers for the 19th district organization of Sons of Legion will be installed at the Torrance American Legion clubhouse tomorrow night with the Torrance squadron as host to the young men who will attend from some 27 cities in this district.

Robert Lowellen, Sr., is the retiring captain. He will be succeeded by Paul Zimmerman of Compton. The ritual team from Leonard Wood squadron, Los Angeles, will install the new leaders.

## Lusty Film Partly Made in Local Oil Field Released as Gold Mine of Year

Hailed by observers of box-office receipts as the "gold mine of the year," the lusty screen drama, "Boom Town" now showing at Los Angeles theatres owes some of its potential popularity to the South Torrance-Lomita oil field.

But that locale flashes on the screen without credit to this area—worse yet, it is "Oklahoma!"

The picture, with such sure-fire attractions as Claudette Colbert, flimdom's highest-paid performer; Clark Gable, Spencer Tracy and Hedy Lamarr, incorporates everything from wildly spouting wells to roaring oil field fires.

On Refinery Location

Last April a location company from the producing studio, M.G.M., shot a number of scenes

## Is This 'Strong-Arm Politics?'



CHIEF SEEKS FINGERPRINTS . . . Clearly showing some of the disarray caused by a marauder the night before, the above photo caught Chief John Stroh "dusting" Attorney Charles Mitschrich's old automatic for fingerprints while the attorney looks over his ransacked office Wednesday morning. The window blinds are still tightly drawn as they were by the burglar. More of Mitschrich's personal papers, looted from the desk, are on the floor near the chair.

## Three Hurt in Head-On Crash; Driver Is Jailed

Following a head-on collision Monday evening on Carson street, in which three women were injured, John S. Higgins, 62, of 1501 Spencer street was arrested on a felony charge of driving while intoxicated and causing injury.

Higgins, accompanied by his wife Bessie, was driving west on Carson. The other machine involved in the crash was operated by Mrs. Lois Reece of 1210 El Prado, who was driving east accompanied by Mrs. Lillian Boecker of East Los Angeles. According to statements given police, Higgins' car was traveling in an erratic manner and he pulled over in the opposite line of traffic.

Mrs. Reece said she stopped her car but Higgins drove his machine head-on into her car.

All three women in the two autos were injured and taken to Torrance Memorial hospital where Mrs. Higgins and Mrs. Boecker were released a few hours later after receiving medical attention. Mrs. Reece was taken to her home Tuesday. Higgins was arraigned before City Judge Robert Lessing Tuesday morning and informed that his preliminary hearing was set for Thursday (today) and bail was fixed at \$500.

While at Compton Junior College Monday night, Bob Tolson had his father's car stolen, the owner, former Mayor William H. Tolson informed police here. The car was recovered Tuesday.

## Tolson Car Stolen

Police Chief John Stroh went to San Diego Saturday to pick up Thomas D. Huddleston, 57, who was being held there on a warrant from Torrance charging him with defrauding a local hotel-keeper. Huddleston was fined \$10 and required to pay his hotel bill following trial Monday before City Judge Robert Lessing.

## Chief Stroh Returns Hotel Bill Jumper from S. D.

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## Believe Quota Reached Here in Red Cross Drive

If the Torrance quota for the Red Cross War Relief Fund is \$2,000 and not \$4,000 as has been publicized for several months—no one seems to know definitely—then Torrance topped its quota this week when contributions totaled \$2,043.13. The larger quota had been set by the Red Cross on the basis of this city's splendid response to the Mississippi flood relief disaster several years ago. However, it is reported that this was later reduced to the original quota of \$2,000.

The two biggest contributions this week came from the Columbia Steel employees, who turned over an even \$500 and announced their drive was not yet complete, and the Torrance Recreation department which collected \$102.05 from the benefit ball game last Saturday night sponsored by the California Semi-Pro Baseball Tournament.

Mrs. Flora Wright, chairman of the Red Cross unit, earlier this week issued a request to all those who are knitting articles for the Red Cross to bring them to the sewing center at the McDonald building on Carson street before Aug. 15 as the articles must be sent to the Los Angeles headquarters on that date.

The report of contributions follows:

Previously acknowledged	\$1,407.08
Pacific Electric Auxiliary	2.00
Woman's Club	12.00
Woman's Auxiliary, St. Andrew's Church	10.00
Mrs. Anna Foltz	1.00
Torrance Dept. of Recreation (California Semi-Pro Baseball Tournament)	102.05
National Supply Company Employees, additional	2.00
J. E. Hitchcock	2.00
Fay L. Parks	5.00
Columbia Steel Company Employees	500.00
TOTAL	\$2,043.13

## Douglas to Build New Aircraft Plant in North Long Beach

Douglas Aircraft Company will shortly erect a large plant in North Long Beach, to employ 3,500 men, according to unconfirmed reports.

The site selected is said to be on the Hellman tract, north of Lakewood Village.

## V.F.W. Post Is Organized Here

A Torrance Veterans of Foreign Wars post was organized Monday night with Lee Balaam as commander at a meeting of more than 30 veterans at the Silver Grill.

Elected to serve with Balaam were William Husbands, senior vice-commander; L. E. Stanley, junior vice-commander; David Lawley, chaplain; Ray Coffin, quartermaster; Harvey Darling, judge advocate, and Leon Webb, surgeon.

Neil McConlogue was elected trustee for an 18-months term; H. L. Bender, trustee for a 12-months term, and W. F. Totten, trustee for a six-months term. Howard Lander was appointed adjutant by Commander Balaam. Installation date will be set and organization completed Aug. 19, as the next post meeting.

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## Week's Building Totals \$3,310

Building construction jobs started in Torrance during the past week amounted to \$3,310, according to records at the city engineer's office. The permits were issued to:

The Texas Company for two 1,000-barrel oil tanks, \$1,000; Joe Miyanch for a 26 by 80-foot greenhouse at 18335 South Western avenue, \$500; Neil M. Doherty for a four-room frame house at 2029 Border avenue, \$1,600; Ed Coomber to remodel the front of a shop building at 1929 21st street, \$80, and Frank E. Drake for a poultry house at 17506 Arlington avenue, \$150.

## Burglar Ransacks Lawyer's Office Top to Bottom

Apparently working in feverish haste, burglars ransacked the offices of Attorney Charles Mitschrich at 1526 Cravens avenue early Tuesday evening, breaking open his desk and literally "turning the place upside down."

Altho his private papers were thoroughly explored, his filing cabinets opened and drawers emptied of their contents, Mitschrich said that he believed nothing was taken. The veteran attorney (he has been a member of the bar for 51 years) was unable to advance any reason why his office should be so thoroughly searched.

Mitschrich discovered the burglary when he returned to his chambers after being absent less than an hour and a half. The main door to the offices had either been opened by a passkey or it had not been tightly closed so that the night-latch worked. The marauder had either worked the door leading to the steps, hidden on the second floor of the building until Mitschrich left or entered from the rear of the building.

Politically-Inspired?

A theory that the burglar sought documents and records of a political nature has been advanced by friends of the attorney. They pointed out that Mitschrich was last week named chairman of the Colder-for-Congress committee in Torrance and recalled that on the night of June 10 the Southwest campaign headquarters of Mrs. Clara N. Colder were burglarized at 7210 1/2 South Vermont avenue.

The attorney said that altho he is busy compiling data of value to Mrs. Colder's candidacy here, the material he had in his office was apparently overlooked. In the case of the Vermont avenue burglary, several precinct maps, a list of more than 150 names of precinct workers, all of the files and other campaign organization records which had taken months to compile were stolen.

So thoroughly were Mitschrich's offices ransacked that a locked compartment of his large desk was forced open and its rarely-used contents scattered about the floor. An old automatic revolver which the attorney purchased in 1901 "and never shot once" was removed from its paper wrappings and flung on the desk.

"I kept nothing of monetary value to anyone in my office," the attorney said. "I cannot understand why my place should have been singled out for such a 'housecleaning.' I can't believe that 'strong-arm politics' is behind this visit."

Police Chief John Stroh investigated the burglary scene Wednesday morning. He searched for fingerprints but was unable to find such clues, a fact that indicates the marauder used gloves or else carefully wiped off articles he handled.

The attorney's filing cabinets in an ante-room had been opened and rifled thru and some of his ordinarily orderly array of law books appeared as tho they had likewise been moved about.

## Nat'l Supply Gets War Order

The National Supply Company received a \$7,000 order for the production study for fabrication of artillery carriages, it was announced this week from Washington, D. C.

While the order will involve only the study of facilities and readjustment necessary to equip the firm's plant here for actual manufacture of this item of armament, production orders are believed likely to follow in the near future.

The firm has been engaged in studying what is termed "educational orders" in preparation for War Department contracts for the past several weeks. It was the only Torrance concern mentioned in press dispatches as having received a government order so far.

NATIONAL MONUMENTS

California now has eight national monuments. They include Death Valley, Modoc Lava Beds, Muir Woods, Joshua Tree, the Pinnacles, Devil's Post Pile, Cabrillo and Channel Island.

## MARCH OF RIMES

HER ROCKING CHAIR—By H. F. NOAKE

If you will search back through the years, when you were young, I'm sure you'll find among those things that once were dear, a rocking chair where mother sat, and held you as a child; and smiled and dreamed, as to and fro she rocked. And later on, she'd sit in that same chair and read to you from some good book; the kind that little folks enjoy, and which so help to shape a youngster's mind. Still later on, in that same chair she'd call you to her side, and taking hold your hand she'd gently reprimand you, for some wrong that you had done, which wasn't fun for her but had to be to make you understand. In later years when you had gone away from home, perhaps for good, your mother could be found in that same chair, where once you sat upon her knee; and tears would flow as she recalled the years of long ago. Still rocking to and fro in that old chair, she'd read your letters and rejoice, and pray that some day soon, again she'd hear your voice.



NOAKE